LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) An information processing method comprising:

providing an annotation for multiple page files, including the steps of:

obtaining a plurality of page files from a web site;

generating a group of said page files, page layout structures of which are at least similar by analyzing said page files to introduce structural descriptive forms for said page layout structures and <u>to assign</u> characteristic values for said structural descriptive forms; employing said structural descriptive forms and said characteristic values to calculate an inter-page distance representing a similarity of said page files; and grouping said page files, of which said inter-page distance is equal to or smaller than a predetermined value;

providing a first annotation for an arbitrary page file in said group; and

correlating said first annotation with at least a part of other page files of said group.

2.   (canceled)

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3. (previously presented) The information processing
method according to claim 1, wherein said structural
descriptive forms are layout tags employing a style for
designating a location on a page for representing tags that
are correlated with said page layout structures included in
said page files; and wherein said characteristic values are
attributes of said layout tags and values of said
attributes.

4. (previously presented) The information processing method
according to claim 1, wherein said inter-page distance is
obtained by calculating a sum of the values obtained by
weighting said characteristic value and said structural
descriptive form that is included in common with said
multiple page files.

5. (original) The information processing method according
to claim 1, wherein said step of correlating said first
annotation with said other page files in said group includes
the steps of:
    determining whether said first annotation should be
applied for the page files of said group;
    adding a second annotation, when the determination is
false, for an arbitrary page file of a page group consisting

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of page files with which said first annotation is not
correlated;

correlating said second annotation with at least a part
of other page files of said page group; and

correcting a calculation expression for said inter-page
distance, so that, at said step of generating a group, said
page file with which said first annotation is correlated and
said page files that are correlated with said second
annotation do not fall in the same group.

6. (original) The information processing method according
to claim 5, wherein said inter-page distance is calculated
by using the sum of values obtained by weighting said
characteristic value and said structural descriptive form
that is included in common with said multiple page files;
and wherein said calculation expression for said inter-page
distance from a group of steps corrected by performing at
least one step from a group of steps including:

an operation for increasing said weighting of said
structural descriptive form and said characteristic value,
for said structural descriptive form and said characteristic
value that are different between said page file correlated
with said first annotation and said page file correlated
with said second annotation, and

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an operation for reducing said weighting of said

structural descriptive form and said characteristic value,

for said structural descriptive form and said characteristic

value that are in common with said page file correlated with

said first annotation and said page file correlated with

said second annotation.

7. (previously presented) The information processing method

according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

    introducing a representative structural descriptive

form that represents said groups and a representative

characteristic value for said representative structural

descriptive form;

    employing said representative structural descriptive

form and said representative characteristic value to

calculate an inter-group distance that delineates the

similarity between said groups;

    grouping said page files that are included in said

groups, said inter-group distance of which is equal to or

smaller than a predetermined value, and generating a common

group;

    adding an annotation to a common area wherein part of

the page layout structure of an arbitrary file, included in

common for the members of said common group, is the same as

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or similar to at least a part of the page layout structure
of a different page file; and

correlating said annotation with said common area
provided for said different page file included, in common,
for said common group.

8. (original) The information processing method according
to claim 7, wherein said representative structural
descriptive forms are layout tags employing a style for
designating the location on a page for representing tags
correlated with said page layout structures of said page
files; and wherein said representative characteristic values
are attributes of said layout tags and values of said
attributes.

9. (original) The information processing method according
to claim 7, wherein said inter-group distance is calculated
by using the sum of the values obtained by weighting said
representative characteristic value and said representative
structural descriptive form that is included in common with
said multiple groups.

10. (original) The information processing method according
to claim 7, wherein said step of correlating said first

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annotation with said common area provided for said different
page file includes the steps of:

determining whether said first annotation should be
applied for said common area provided for the page files of
said common group;

adding a second annotation, when the determination is
false, to the common area of an arbitrary page file of a
page group consisting of page files including said common
area with which said first annotation is not correlated;

correlating said second annotation with 'Yes' part of
the common areas of other page files of said page group; and

correcting a calculation expression for said
inter-group distance, so that, at said step of generating a
common group, said page file including said common area
correlated with said first annotation and said page files
including said common areas correlated with said second
annotation do not fall in the same common group.

11. (currently amended) An information processing system,
for providing an annotation for multiple page files,
comprising:

means for obtaining page files from a web site;

means for generating a group of said page files, page
layout structures of which are the same or similar

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comprising means for analyzing said page files to introduce structural descriptive forms for said page layout structures and <u>assign</u> characteristic values for said structural descriptive forms; means for employing said structural descriptive forms and said characteristic values to calculate an inter-page distance representing the similarity of said page files; and means for grouping said page files, of which said inter-page distance is equal to or smaller than a predetermined value;

means for providing a first annotation for an arbitrary page file in said group; and

means for correlating said first annotation with 'Yes' a part of other page files of said group.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) The information processing system according to claim 11, wherein said structural descriptive forms are layout tags employing a style for designating the location on a page for representing tags correlated with said page layout structures of said page files; and wherein said characteristic values are attributes of said layout tags and values of said attributes.

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14. (previously presented) The information processing system according to claim 11, wherein said inter-page distance is calculated by using the sum of the values obtained by weighting said characteristic value and said structural descriptive form that is included in common with said multiple page files.

15. (previously presented) The information processing system according to claim 11, wherein said means for correlating said first annotation with said other page files in said group includes:

means for determining whether said first annotation should be applied for the page files of said group;

means for adding a second annotation, when the determination is false, for an arbitrary page file of a page group consisting of page files with which said first annotation is not correlated;

means for correlating said second annotation with 'Yes' part of other page files of said page group; and

means for correcting a calculation expression for said inter-page distance, so that, at said step of generating a group, said page file correlated with said first annotation and said page files correlated with said second annotation do not fall in the same group.

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16. (original) The information processing system according to claim 15, wherein said inter-page distance is calculated by using the sum of values obtained by weighting said characteristic value and said structural descriptive form that is included in common with said multiple page files; and wherein said calculation expression for said inter-page distance is corrected by performing at least one step from a group of steps including:

an operation for increasing said weighting of said structural descriptive form and said characteristic value, for said structural descriptive form and said characteristic value that are different between said page file correlated with said first annotation and said page file correlated with said second annotation, and

an operation for reducing said weighting of said structural descriptive form and said characteristic value, for said structural descriptive form and said characteristic value that are in common with said page file correlated with said first annotation and said page file correlated with said second annotation.

17. (previously presented) The information processing system according to claim 11, further comprising:

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means for introducing a representative structural

descriptive form that represents said groups and a

representative characteristic value for said representative

structural descriptive form;

means for employing said representative structural

descriptive form and said representative characteristic

value to calculate an inter-group distance that delineates

the similarity between said groups;

means for grouping said page files that are included in

said groups, said inter-group distance of which is equal to

or smaller than a predetermined value, and generating a

common group;

means for adding an annotation to a common area wherein

part of the page layout structure of an arbitrary file,

included in common for the members of said common group, is

the same as or similar to at least a part of the page layout

structure of a different page file; and

means for correlating said annotation with said common

area provided for said different page file included in

common for said common group.

18. (original) The information processing system according

to claim 17, wherein said representative structural

descriptive forms are layout tags employing a style for

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designating the location on a page for representing tags correlated with said page layout structures of said page files; and wherein said representative characteristic values are attributes of said layout tags and values of said attributes.

19. (original) The information processing system according to claim 17, wherein said inter-group distance is calculated by using the sum of the values obtained by weighting said representative characteristic value and said representative structural descriptive form that is included in common with said multiple groups.

20. (original) The information processing system according to claim 17, wherein said means for correlating said first annotation with said common area provided for said different page file includes:

means for determining whether said first annotation should be applied for said common area provided for the page files of said common group;

means for adding a second annotation, when the determination is false, to the common area of an arbitrary page file of a page group consisting of page files including

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said common area with which said first annotation is not
correlated;

means for correlating said second annotation with 'Yes'
part of the common areas of other page files of said page
group; and

means for correcting a calculation expression for said
inter-group distance, so that, at said means for generating
a common group, said page file including said common area
correlated with said first annotation and said page files
including said common areas correlated with said second
annotation do not fall in the same common group.

21. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a
computer usable medium having computer readable program code
means embodied therein for causing annotation, the computer
readable program code means in said article of manufacture
comprising computer readable program code means for causing
a computer to effect the steps of claim 1.

22. (original) A program storage device readable by machine,
tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by
the machine to perform method steps for annotation said
method steps comprising the steps of claim 1.

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23. (original) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing annotation the computer readable program code means in said computer program product comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the functions of claim 11.